

09/786309

JC08 Rec'd PCT/PTO 03 MAR 2001

Practitioner's Docket No. 55573

CHAPTER II

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER
TO THE UNITED STATES ELECTED OFFICE (EO/US)
(ENTRY INTO U.S. NATIONAL PHASE UNDER CHAPTER II)**

PCT/JP99/01227	12 March 1999	03 September 1998
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
<u>HIGHLY EFFICIENT MUTAGENESIS METHOD WITH THE USE OF PSORALEN DERIVATIVES</u>		
TITLE OF INVENTION		
<u>Masayoshi MISHINA and Hideki ANDO</u>		
APPLICANTS		

Box PCT
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington D.C. 20231
ATTENTION: EO/US

NOTE: To avoid abandonment of the application, the applicant shall furnish to the USPTO, not later than 20 months from the priority date: (1) a copy of the international application, unless it has been previously communicated by the International Bureau or unless it was originally filed in the USPTO; and (2) the basic national fee (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.492(a)). The 30-month time limit may not be extended. 37 C.F.R. § 1.495.

WARNING: Where the items are those which can be submitted to complete the entry of the international application into the national phase are subsequent to 30 months from the priority date the application is still considered to be in the international state and if mailing procedures are utilized to obtain a date the express mail procedure of 37 C.F.R. §1.10 must be used (since international application papers are not covered by an ordinary certificate of mailing - See 37 C.F.R. §1.8).

NOTE: Documents and fees must be clearly identified as a submission to enter the national state under 35 USC 371 otherwise the submission will be considered as being made under 35 USC 111. 37 C.F.R. § 1.494(f).

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.10*

(Express Mail label number is **mandatory**.)

(Express Mail certification is **optional**.)

I hereby certify that this paper, along with any document referred to, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on this date March 3, 2001, in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee," mailing Label Number **EL835032155US**, addressed to the: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Deanna M. Rivernider

(type or print name of person mailing paper)

Signature of person mailing paper

WARNING: Certificate of mailing (first class) or facsimile transmission procedures of 37 C.F.R. § 1.8 cannot be used to obtain a date of mailing or transmission for this correspondence.

***WARNING:** Each paper or fee filed by "Express Mail" **must** have the number of the "Express Mail" mailing label placed thereon prior to mailing. 37 C.F.R. § 1.10(b)

"Since the filing of correspondence under § 1.10 without the Express Mail mailing label thereon is an oversight that can be avoided by the exercise of reasonable care, requests for waiver of this requirement will not be granted on petition." Notice of Oct. 24, 1996, 60 Fed. Reg. 56,439, at 56,442.

1. Applicant herewith submits to the United States Elected Office (EO/US) the following items under 35 U.S.C. 371:

- a. This express request to immediately begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)).
- b. The U.S. National Fee (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(1)) and other fees (37 C.F.R. § 1.492) as indicated below:

2. Fees

CLAIMS FEE	(1) FOR	(2) NUMBER FILED	(3) NUMBER EXTRA	(4) RATE	(5) CALCULATIONS
[X]*	TOTAL CLAIMS	8- 20 =	0	x \$ 18.00 =	\$0
	INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	2 - 3 =	0	x \$ 78.00 =	\$0
	MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)	+ \$260.00			\$270.00
BASIC FEE**	[] U.S. PTO WAS INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION AUTHORITY Where an International preliminary examination fee as set forth in § 1.482 has been paid on the international application to the U.S. PTO: [] and the international preliminary examination report states that the criteria of novelty, inventive step (non-obviousness) and industrial activity, as defined in PCT Article 33(2) to (4) have been satisfied for all the claims presented in the application entering the national stage (37 CFR 1.492(a)(4)) \$96.00 [] and the above requirements are not met (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)) \$670.00				
	[X] U.S. PTO WAS NOT INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION AUTHORITY Where no international preliminary examination fee as set forth in § 1.482 has been paid to the USPTO, and payment of an international search fee as set forth in § 1.445(a)(2) to the U.S. PTO: [] has been paid (37 CFR 1.492(a)(2)) \$760.00 [] has not been paid (37 CFR 1.492(a)(3)) \$970.00 [X] where a search report on the international application has been prepared by the European Patent Office or the Japanese Patent Office (37 CFR 1.492(a)(5))..... \$860.00				\$860.00
	Total of above Calculations			= \$1,130.00	
SMALL ENTITY	Reduction by ½ for filing by small entity, if applicable. Affidavit must be filed. (note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28)			- \$	
	Subtotal			\$1,130.00	
	Total National Fee			\$1,130.00	
	Fee for recording the enclosed assignment document \$40.00 (37 CFR 1.21(h)). (See Item 13 below). See attached "ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEET".			\$	
TOTAL			Total Fees enclosed	\$1,130.00	

*See attached Preliminary Amendment Reducing the Number of Claims.

- i. A check in the amount of \$1,130.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed.
- ii. Please charge Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____.

A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

****WARNING:** "To avoid abandonment of the application the applicant shall furnish to the United States Patent and Trademark Office not later than the expiration of 30 months from the priority date: * * * (2) the basic national fee (see § 1.492(a)). The 30-month time limit may not be extended." 37 C.F.R. § 1.495(b).

WARNING: If the translation of the international application and/or the oath or declaration have not been submitted by the applicant within thirty (30) months from the priority date, such requirements may be met within a time period set by the Office. 37 C.F.R. § 1.495(b)(2). The payment of the surcharge set forth in § 1.492(e) is required as a condition for accepting the oath or declaration later than thirty (30) months after the priority date. The payment of the processing fee set forth in § 1.492(f) is required for acceptance of an English translation later than thirty (30) months after the priority date. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in abandonment of the application. The provisions of § 1.136 apply to the period which is set. Notice of Jan. 3, 1993, 1147 O.G. 29 to 40

3. A copy of the International application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)):

NOTE: Section 1.495 (b) was amended to require that the basic national fee and a copy of the international application must be filed with the Office by 30 months from the priority date to avoid abandonment. "The International Bureau normally provides the copy of the international application to the Office in accordance with PCT Article 20. At the same time, the International Bureau notifies applicant of the communication to the Office in accordance with PCT Rule 47.1, that notice shall be accepted by all designated offices as conclusive evidence that the communication has duly taken place. Thus, if the applicant desires to enter the national stage, the applicant normally need only check to be sure the notice from the International Bureau has been received and then pay the basic national fee by 30 months from the priority date." Notice of Jan. 7, 1993, 1147 O.G. 29 to 40, at 35-36. See item 14c below.

- a. is transmitted herewith.
- b. is not required, as the application was filed with the United States Receiving Office.
- c. has been transmitted
 - i. by the International Bureau.
Date of mailing of the application (from form PCT/IB/308): 16/03/00.
 - ii. by applicant on _____.
Date

4. A translation of the International application into the English language (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)):

- a. is transmitted herewith.
- b. is not required as the application was filed in English.
- c. was previously transmitted by applicant on _____.
Date
- d. will follow.

5. Amendments to the claims of the International application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)):

NOTE: The Notice of January 7, 1993 points out that 37 C.F.R. § 1.495(a) was amended to clarify the existing and continuing practice that PCT Article 19 amendments must be submitted by 30 months from the priority date and this deadline may not be extended. The Notice further advises that: "The failure to do so will not result in loss of the subject matter of the PCT Article 19 amendments. Applicant may submit that subject matter in a preliminary amendment filed under section 1.121. In many cases, filing an amendment under section 1.121 is preferable since grammatical or idiomatic errors may be corrected." 1147 O.G. 29-40, at 36.

- a. are transmitted herewith.
- b. have been transmitted
 - i. by the International Bureau.
Date of mailing of the amendment (from form PCT/IB/308): _____.

- ii. Date of mailing of the amendment (from form PCT/IB/308): _____
 by applicant on _____ Date
- c. have not been transmitted as
 i. applicant chose not to make amendments under PCT Article 19.
 Date of mailing of Search Report (from form PCT/ISA/210): 15/06/99
 ii. the time limit for the submission of amendments has not yet expired.
 The amendments or a statement that amendments have not been made will be transmitted before the expiration of the time limit under PCT Rule 46.1.
6. A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (38 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)):
 a. is transmitted herewith.
 b. is not required as the amendments were made in the English language.
 c. has not been transmitted for reasons indicated at point 5(c) above.
7. A copy of the international examination report (PCT/IPEA/409)
 is transmitted herewith.
 is not required as the application was filed with the United States Receiving Office.
8. Annex(es) to the international preliminary examination report
 a. is/are transmitted herewith.
 b. is/are not required as the application was filed with the United States Receiving Office.
9. A translation of the annexes to the international preliminary examination report
 a. is transmitted herewith.
 b. is not required as the annexes are in the English language.
10. An oath or declaration of the inventor (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)) complying with 35 U.S.C. 115
 a. was previously submitted by applicant on _____ Date
 b. is submitted herewith, and such oath or declaration
 i. is attached to the application.
 ii. identifies the application and any amendments under PCT Article 19 that were transmitted as stated in points 3(b) or 3(c) and 5(b); and states that they were reviewed by the inventor as required by 37 C.F.R. 1.70.
 iii. will follow.

II. Other document(s) or information included:

11. An International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210) or Declaration under PCT Article 17(2)(a):
 a. is transmitted herewith.
 b. has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 Date of mailing (from form PCT/IB/308): _____
 c. is not required, as the application was searched by the United States International Searching Authority.

- d. [] will be transmitted promptly upon request.
 e. [] has been submitted by applicant on _____
 Date
12. [X] An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.97 and 1.98:
 a. [X] is transmitted herewith.
 Also transmitted herewith is/are:
 [X] Form PTO-1449 (PTO/SB/08A and 08B).
 [X] Copies of citations listed.
 b. [] will be transmitted within THREE MONTHS of the date of submission of requirements under 35 U.S.C. 371(c).
 c. [] was previously submitted by applicant on _____
 Date
13. [] An assignment document is transmitted herewith for recording.
- A separate [] "COVER SHEET FOR ASSIGNMENT (DOCUMENT) ACCOMPANYING NEW PATENT APPLICATION" or [] FORM PTO 1595 is also attached.
14. [X] Additional documents:
 a. [X] Copy of request (PCT/RO/101)
 b. [X] International Publication No. WO 00/14213
 i. [X] Specification, claims and drawing
 ii. [] Front page only
 c. [] Preliminary amendment (37 C.F.R. § 1.121)
 d. [X] Other
- PCT/IPEA/416, PCT/IB/308, PCT/IB/332, PCT/IPEA/408, PCT/IPEA/401, PCT/IB/304, PCT/RO/105, PCT/ISA/202, PCT/RO/106.
15. [X] The above checked items are being transmitted
 a. [X] before 30 months from any claimed priority date.
 b. [] after 30 months.
16. [] Certain requirements under 35 U.S.C. 371 were previously submitted by the applicant on _____, namely:

AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE ADDITIONAL FEES

WARNING: *Accurately count claims, especially multiple dependent claims, to avoid unexpected high charges if extra claims are authorized.*

NOTE: *"A written request may be submitted in an application that is an authorization to treat any concurrent or future reply, requiring a petition for an extension of time under this paragraph for its timely submission, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time. An authorization to charge all required fees, fees under § 1.17, or all required extension of time fees will be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in any concurrent or future reply requiring a petition for an extension of time under this paragraph for its timely submission. Submission of the fee set forth in § 1.17(a) will also be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in any concurrent reply requiring a petition for an extension of time under this paragraph for its timely submission." 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).*

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NOTE: "Amounts of twenty-five dollars or less will not be returned unless specifically requested within a reasonable time, nor will the payer be notified of such amounts; amounts over twenty-five dollars may be returned by check or, if requested, by credit to a deposit account." 37 C.F.R. § 1.26(a).

- [X] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the following additional fees that may be required by this paper and during the entire pendency of this application to Account No. **04-1105**.
- [X] 37 C.F.R. 1.492(a)(1), (2), (3), and (4) (filing fees)

WARNING: Because failure to pay the national fee within 30 months without extension (37 C.F.R. § 1.495(b)(2)) results in abandonment of the application, it would be best to always check the above box.

- [X] 37 C.F.R. 1.492(b), (c) and (d) (presentation of extra claims)

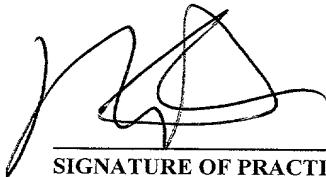
NOTE: Because additional fees for excess or multiple dependent claims not paid on filing or on later presentation must only be paid or these claims cancelled by amendment prior to the expiration of the time period set for response by the PTO in any notice of fee deficiency (37 C.F.R. § 1.492(d)), it might be best not to authorize the PTO to charge additional claim fees, except possible when dealing with amendments after final action.

- [X] 37 C.F.R. 1.17 (application processing fees)
- [X] 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)(1)-(5) (extension fees pursuant to § 1.136(a)).
- [] 37 C.F.R. 1.18 (issue fee at or before mailing of Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.311(b))

NOTE: Where an authorization to charge the issue fee to a deposit account has been filed before the mailing of a Notice of Allowance, the issue fee will be automatically charged to the deposit account at the time of mailing the notice of allowance. 37 C.F.R. § 1.311(b).

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. 1.28(b) requires "Notification of any change in loss of entitlement to small entity status must be filed in the application . . . prior to paying, or at the time of paying . . . issue fee." From the wording of 37 C.F.R. § 1.28(b): (a) notification of change of status must be made even if the fee is paid as "other than a small entity" and (b) no notification is required if the change is to another small entity.

- [] 37 C.F.R. § 1.492(e) and (f) (surcharge fees for filing the declaration and/or filing an English translation of an International Application later than 30 months after the priority date).



SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

Reg. No.: 33,860

Peter F. Corless

(type or print name of practitioner)

EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP

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Customer No.:



Docket No 55573
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

In re application: Mishina

Group:

Serial # 09/786,309

Examiner:

Filed 3/1299

**Highly Efficient Mutagenesis Method with the
use of Psoralen Derivatives**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

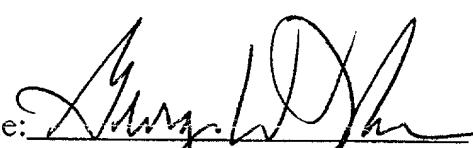
Sir:

CHANGE OF MAILING ADDRESS

Applicant requests that all further communications from the Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the subject application be sent to the following address:

Dike, Bronstein, Roberts & Cushman
Intellectual Property Practice Group
EDWARDS & ANGELL
P.O. Box 9169
Boston, MA 02209
Tel.: (617) 523-3400
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Date: April 6 2001

Name: 
George W. Neuner
Registration No. 26,964

09/786309

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Express Mail Label No. EL835032155US
Docket No. 55573

U.S. PATENT APPLICATION

Title: **HIGHLY EFFICIENT MUTAGENESIS METHOD WITH THE USE OF PSORALEN DERIVATIVES**

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HIGHLY-EFFICIENT MUTAGENESIS METHOD WITH THE USE OF
PSORALEN DERIVATIVES

Technical Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a method for mutating a gene of a vertebrate animal, preferably zebrafish by using a psoralen derivative, preferably trimethylpsoralen; a method for preparing the gene mutated by the method; and a method for analyzing the function of the gene of the vertebrate animal by using the method.

Background Art

In the last several years, a mass-scale mutant screening was conducted by using zebrafish, mainly in Germany and the U.S., so as to comprehensively isolate factors responsible for the vertebral development mechanism, and several hundreds of genes responsible for the development have been reported [Driever, W. et al., (1996) Development 123, 37-46.; Haffter, P. et al., (1996) Development 123, 1-36].

The mutagen used in the project (mutagenic substance for mutant] is N-ethyl-N-nitrosourea (ENU) which has an action to substitute one base composing a gene with another base. Hence, the mutagen has a drawback such that it is difficult to identify and clone an intended mutated gene, by using the slight mutation as a marker, despite the merit of the high efficiency [Postlethwait, J. H. and Talbot, W. S. (1997) Trends Genet., 13, 183-190].

Alternatively, the Hopkins' group developed an elegant insertional mutagenesis method comprising inserting a retroviral vector in a chromosome and

thereby disrupt a gene, as a strategy directed to gene cloning [Gaiano, N. et al., (1996) *Nature* 383, 829-832]. Because the sequence of the inserted vector was known, the chromosomal region around the vector could simultaneously be recovered, by using the sequence as the marker. However, the efficiency was at least several tens times lower than that of ENU, so the insertional mutagenesis method was not suitable for mutagenesis at a comprehensive scale [Postlethwait, J. H. and Talbot, W. S. (1997) *Trends Genet.*, 13, 183-190].

One of other approaches is chromosomal deletion mutagenesis method. The deletion per se prepared by the approach advantageously serves as a marker for the cloning of a mutated gene. The deletion exerts its power by approaches, such as representational difference analysis (RDA) [Cimino, G. D., Gamper, H. B., Isaacs, S. T. and Hearst, J. E. (1985) Psoralens as photoactive probes of nucleic acid structure and function: organic chemistry, photochemistry, and biochemistry. *Annu. Rev. Biochem.* 54, 1151-1193.]. It has been known insofar that irradiation of γ ray or X ray induces chromosomal deletion. As the deletion induced by the irradiation is so large, involving the damage of the chromosome, however, it is difficult to isolate a mutation at a level of single gene locus. Thus, those methods were not suitable for detailed research works of mutation, because the methods induced large deletion or disruption in the chromosome of zebrafish [Chackrabarti, S. et al., (1983) *Genetics* 103, 109-124.; Mullins, M.C. et al., (1994) *Curr. Biol.* 4, 189-202.].

Additionally, it is considered that the elucidation of the development mechanism by means of gene mutation possibly functions as a potent genetic approach, so as to isolate and identify the development factors and to additionally elucidate the development and function of each organ such as brain and the

functions of genes responsible therefor. Particularly, the systematic genetic analysis in vertebrate animals has become very important. Zebrafish has a great number of advantages among vertebrate animals, and it is observed that the rapid progress of the development of an organ such as brain in the growing transparent embryo [Stuemer, C. A. O. (1988) Retinotopic organization of the developing retinotectal projection in the zebrafish embryo. J. Neurosci. 8, 4513-4530].

It has additionally been known that trimethylpsoralen (4, 5', 8-trimethylpsoralen; abbreviated as TMP hereinbelow) known as one of DNA crosslinking agents highly frequently induces small chromosomal deletions in *Escherichia coli* and *Caenorhabditis elegans*.

Accordingly, the development of a new gene mutagenesis system enabling cloning at a high frequency in vertebrate animals, particularly zebrafish, has been desired.

The present inventors have counted the mutation frequency of a specific gene locus and have made a pilot screening. Consequently, the inventors have confirmed that TMP induces mutation even in vertebrate animals and that the TMP mutagenesis method is efficient. In order to confirm that the TMP mutagenesis method is practically functional, still furthermore, the inventors have analyzed mutants with specific abnormalities in the nervous system, as recovered by the TMP mutagenesis method. Based on these results, the inventors have found that the TMP mutagenesis method is an effective method, for isolating mutants of vertebrate animals, particularly zebrafish, and for analyzing the mutants at molecular level. Thus, the invention has been achieved.

Disclosure of the Invention

The invention relates to a method for mutating a gene of vertebrate animals, preferably zebrafish, by using a psoralen derivative, preferably trimethylpsoralen, and a method for preparing the gene mutated by the method.

Additionally, the invention relates to a method for analyzing the function of a gene of a vertebrate animal, comprising inducing mutagenesis in a gene region containing a pyrimidine base by using a psoralen derivative and expressing the mutated gene, and examining the correlation.

Brief Description of the Drawings

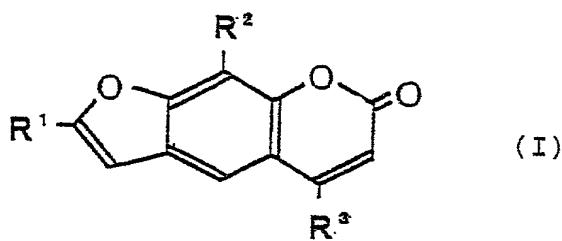
Fig. 1 depicts a schematic view of the TMP mutagenesis method;

Fig. 2 depicts the immunostaining of presumptive tectal neurons of the wild-type (A) and *ntn* mutant (B) embryos 38 hours after the development with anti-acetylated tublin antibody, in photographs of the side views; and

Fig. 3 depicts the trifacial node sensory neurons (A, B), Rohon-Beard sensory neurons (C, D) and posterior primary motor neurons (E, F) of the wild-type (A, C, E) and *edw* mutant (B, D, F) embryos 28 hours after the development, in photographs of the side views of the left head tops.

Best Mode for Carrying out the Invention

The psoralen derivative of the invention is satisfactorily psoralen per se or a derivative thereof, given that psoralen or the derivative thereof can functionally induce crosslinks in nucleic acids such as DNA by ultraviolet irradiation or X-ray irradiation, to delete a region including the crosslinked site. Preferably, the psoralen derivative of the invention is a compound represented by the following formula I:



wherein R¹, R² and R³ independently represent hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group.

The hydrocarbon group in the general formula I includes for example a linear or branched alkyl group with 1 to 30 carbon atoms, preferably 1 to 20 carbon atoms, more preferably 1 to 10 carbon atoms, which is more preferably a lower alkyl group; a linear or branched alkenyl group with 2 to 30 carbon atoms, preferably 2 to 20 carbon atoms, more preferably 2 to 10 carbon atoms; a monocyclic, polycyclic or condensed cyclic cycloalkyl group with 5 to 30 carbon atoms, preferably 5 to 20 carbon atoms, more preferably 6 to 10 carbon atoms; and a monocyclic, polycyclic or condensed cyclic aryl group with 6 to 30 carbon atoms, preferably 6 to 20 carbon atoms, more preferably 6 to 10 carbon atoms.

Additionally, the alkyl group, alkenyl group, cycloalkyl group and aryl group in the general formula I may further have substituents; or these groups may be substituted with each other. For example, alkyl-substituted cycloalkyl group, alkyl-substituted aryl group, aryl-substituted alkyl group (aralkyl group), and cycloalkylalkyl group are listed.

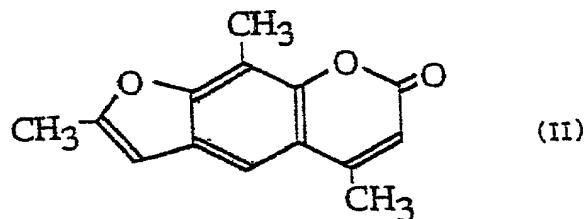
Other substituents include for example alkoxy group, alkylthio group, dialkylamino group, and trialkylsilyl group, all these groups comprising the alkyl group described above; halogen atoms such as chloride, bromide and fluoride; alkyleneoxy groups such as methylenedioxy group and 2,2-

dimethylmethylenedioxy group; and cyano group.

The substituents are preferably lower alkyl groups such as methyl group, ethyl group, n-propyl group, isopropyl group, and t-butyl group; aryl groups such as phenyl group and naphthyl group; lower alkoxyl groups such as methoxy group, ethoxy group and n-propoxy group; di(lower alkylamino) groups such as dimethylamino group, diethylamino group, and dipropylamino group; lower alkyl-substituted silyl groups such as trimethylsilyl group, triethylsilyl group, dimethylethylsilyl group and dimethyl(t-butyl)silyl group; halogen atoms such as chloride and fluoride; alkyleneoxy groups such as methylenedioxy group and 2,2-dimethylmethylenedioxoy group; and cyano group.

Specific examples of R¹, R² and R³ in the general formula I include for example lower alkyl groups such as methyl group, ethyl group, n-propyl group, isopropyl group, n-butyl group, t-butyl group and hexyl group; lower alkenyl groups such as vinyl group, propenyl group and butenyl group; cycloalkyl groups such as cyclohexyl group and cyclopentyl group; aryl groups such as phenyl group and naphthyl group; aralkyl groups such as benzyl group and phenethyl group.

The psoralen derivative of the invention is preferably trimethylpsoralen (TMP) represented by the following formula II:



Under ultraviolet irradiation, TMP (4-5'-8-trimethylpsoralen) forms a covalent bond with a pyrimidine base composing a DNA double helix, to make an

interstrand crosslink in the DNA double strand. A region around the crosslinked site is excised through the DNA recombinational repair mechanism essential to biological organisms, so that a small deletion occurs [Cimino, G. D., et al., (1985) Annu. Rev. Biochem., 54, 1151-1193.].

In the case where an essential gene is present in the deleted region, the function thereof is lost, involving the emergence of a mutant. Because such a marker as the deletion at the chromosomal level is added, unlike the ENU point mutation, the mutated gene can be identified and cloned, by cloning a chromosomal fragment around the mutated site by a specific method, for example the RDA method (Representational Difference Analysis) [Lisitsyn, N. et al., (1993), Science, 259, 946-951.] and subjecting the chromosomal fragment to chromosomal walking, so as to determine the deleted site.

The results of the pilot screening conducted by the inventors suggested that the mutant isolation frequency by the gene mutagenesis method using psoralen derivatives, particularly TMP, was at the same level as that of ENU.

The gene mutagenesis method using TMP for *Caenorhabditis elegans* was reported previously [Yandell, M. D. et al., (1994) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 91, 1381-1385.]. Nevertheless, the present method comprising treating a vertebral gene, particularly vertebral sperm with TMP and inducing mutagenesis in the embryo by artificial fertilization is a novel methodology with no such example found in the past. The method is quite unique in that mutant strains of zebrafish can totally be isolated and that the cloning of these mutated genes enables the molecular level analysis of all the vertebral functions.

In order to develop an efficient deletion mutagenesis method in zebrafish, the inventors have carried out experiments with TMP as one of DNA crosslinking

reagents [Driever, W., Solnica-Krezel, L., Schier, A. F., Neuhauss, S. C. F., Malicki, J., Stemple, D. L., Stainier, D. Y. R., Zwartkruis, F., Abdelilah, S., Rangini, Z., Belak, J. and Boggs, C. (1996) A genetic screen for mutations affecting embryogenesis in zebrafish. *Development* 123, 37-46]. Fig. 1 depicts the summary of the experimental method. Fig. 1 is now described briefly. Sperm collected from males of the zebrafish AB strain was placed in a TMP solution, which was then subjected to ultraviolet irradiation. The sperm after the treatment was artificially fertilized with a wild-type egg, which was then grown into an F1 individual with the mutagenized genome in hetero (+/m). The F1 individual was mated with the wild-type AB strain (+/+); and one half thereof generated an F2 population with a specific mutated gene locus in hetero. One pair per 4 pairs of the F2 siblings (+/+ or +/m) mated together generated an F3 embryo (white embryo) having mutation in a homozygous fashion (m/m) and expressing the phenotype of the mutant, at a ratio of 1/4.

Zebrafish males of the AB strain were anesthetized with 0.03 % (W/V) 3-aminobenzoate ethyl ester and then inserted at their spine positions between the slits of a sponge block. From the 3 to 5 males was aspirated sperm with a 20- μ l capillary tube, which was then suspended in 100 μ l of Hank's sodium chloride solution containing 3 ng/ml to 300 ng/ml TMP and 1 % dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO). After the resulting suspension was left to stand on ice for 5 minutes, 10- μ l portions of the suspension were dropwise added to and arranged on a 2-mm thick plastic petri dish; the petri dish was then placed on the ultraviolet irradiator of a DNA crosslinking apparatus (TFL-20M, manufactured by Vilber Lourmat, Co. Ltd., France); through the bottom of the petri dish, the sperm was irradiated with ultraviolet light under conditions of 312-nm wavelength and 0.02 J/cm².

The mutagenized sperm was artificially fertilized with a fresh normal egg squeezed out of the abdomen of AB-strain females under anesthesia, while the abdomen was gently pressed, according to a routine method (day 0) [Stuemer, C. A. O. (1988) Retinotopic organization of the developing retinotectal projection in the zebrafish embryo. *J. Neurosci.* 8, 4513-4530.]. The fertilized egg was placed at 28 °C in darkness for 12 hours, so as to grow an F1 individual according to a routine method [Allende, M. L., Amsterdam, A., Becker, T., Kawakami, K., Gaiano, N. and Hopkins, N., (1996) Insertional mutagenesis in zebrafish identifies two novel genes, pescadillo and dead eye, essential for embryonic development. *Gene Dev.* 10, 3141-3155.].

Almost all of the embryos treated under the same conditions except for no TMP addition were grown to mature fish individuals (580 out of 594). Among the embryos treated with 30 ng/ml TMP, only 57 % (371 out of 650) could survive until day 9; among the embryos treated with 300 ng/ml TMP, only 9.5 % (49 out of 515) could survive until day 9.

Among the embryos developed from the sperm treated with 30 ng/ml TMP, 70 % or more (122 out of 170) exhibited various abnormalities until day 2 postfertilization.

Meanwhile, the number of abnormal individuals under conditions without both or either one of TMP and ultraviolet light was very small (2 % or less).

In order to examine the efficiency of the TMP mutagenesis method on the basis of the assay of the mutation frequency of a specific gene locus, subsequently, experiments of tester mutation were carried out by using zebrafish with a spotted pigmentation. The inherited character of the spotted pigmentation used in the tester mutation was recessive and transmitted in the genetic mode according to the

Mendel's Law, indicating that the character was derived from a single gene locus. The inventors treated the sperm of AB-strain males separately with 30 ng/ml and 300 ng/ml TMP, for artificial fertilization with the egg of tester-strain females. Thirty days later, 6 out of 1181 F1 individuals derived from the 30 ng/ml TMP treatment and 3 out of 130 F1 individuals derived from the 300 ng/ml TMP treatment exerted pigment mutation in dotted pattern. Additionally, no individual with pigment mutation was observed among 866 F1 individuals treated only with ultraviolet irradiation. Consequently, the mutation frequencies of 30 ng/ml TMP and 300 ng/ml TMP were calculated as 0.5 % and 2 %, respectively, which demonstrates that the TMP mutagenesis method is extremely efficient in zebrafish.

During a term from day 1 to day 5 postfertilization, screening (F2 screen; see Fig. 1) was performed on the basis of the morphology of F3 embryo under observation with a stereomicroscope and the response to contact stimulus. Then, mutants of 10 strains were isolated mainly from 26 F1 individuals derived from the sperm treated with 30 ng/ml TMP. Furthermore, 2 strains were also isolated from the screen of the haploids generated in a parthenogenesis manner via the activation of the F1 egg with functionally impotent sperm (Stuemer, C.A.O. (1988) Retinotopic organization of the developing retinotectal projection in the zebra fish embryo. J. Neurosci. 8, 4513-4530.). The resulting mutant strains are as follows: growth degeneracy (4 strains), small head and small eyes (3 strains), no motility (2 strains), edema accompanied by ventricular enlargement (one strain), short length (one strain) and tectal necrosis (one strain). All mutants were recessive and lethal in the genetic mode according to the Mendel's Law.

In order to confirm that the TMP mutagenesis method was sufficiently

functional, the inventors analyzed 2 mutant strains with abnormalities in the nerve system in more detail. In the case of the embryo of a mutant (*ntn*) with no tectal neuron, opaqueness appeared selectively in the tectum and eye in approximately around 40 hours. When stained with the anti-acetylated tubulin monoclonal antibody (Sigma, Co.) [Haffter, P., Granato, M., Brand, M., Mullins, M. C., Hammerschmidt, M., Kane, D. A., Odenthal, J., van Eeden, F. J. M., Jiang, Y.-J., Heisenberg, C.-P., Kelsh, R. N., Furutani-Seiki, M., Vogelsang, E., Beuchle, D., Schach, U., Fabian, C., and Nuesslein-Volhard, C. (1996) The identification of genes with unique and essential functions in the development of the zebrafish, *Danio rerio*. Development 123, 1-36.], the axonogenesis of the presumptive tectal neuron was prominently progressed in the wild-type embryo within 37 to 39 hours, to form a tectal neuropil (Fig. 2A). Almost no development of any presumptive tectal neuron occurred in the embryo of the no tectal neuron mutant (*ntn*) at the same period of time (Fig. 2B), although no difference in staining was observed in the remaining regions of the embryo. The results of these analyses indicate that the *ntn* mutation affects the development of tectal neuron and eye. In terms of the invasion of tectum and eye, the *ntn* mutant is common to several previously reported mutants (Class I and Class III) with abnormality in the neural development [Chen, C. and Tonegawa, S. (1997) Molecular genetic analysis of synaptic plasticity, activity-dependent neural development, learning and memory in the mammalian brain. Annu. Rev. Neurosci. 20, 157-184, Chackrabarti, S., Streisinger, G., Singer, F. and Walker, C. (1983) Frequency of γ -ray induced specific locus and recessive lethal mutations in mature germ cells of the zebrafish, *Brachydanio rerio*. Genetics 103, 109-124.].

Fig. 2 depicts the immunostaining with anti-acetylated tubulin antibody of

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the presumptive tectal neurons in the embryos of wild type (A) and no tectal neuron (*ntn*) (B) in 38 hours after the development, as shown in color photographs of the side views. The left head tops. The arrow indicates TPC (the tracts of posterior commissures). "T" represents presumptive tectum. The scale bar in Fig. 2 corresponds to 100 μ m.

Furthermore, the inventors have found an *edawakare* mutant (*edw*) as a mutant with small head and no body motility. Abnormalities in the sensory neuron and muscle were first found in the mutant, which corresponds to the characteristic property that the mutant never responded to gentle contact to its cauda, around 24 hours later. In 20 hours after the development, the peripheral axons of the trifacial node and Rohon-Beard sensory neurons were abnormally extensive in the *edw* mutant. In the wild type, meanwhile, the peripheral axon of the trifacial nodal cell projected in the epidermis of the posterior head and the anterior egg yolk cavity (Fig. 3A). In the wild type, however, the axon projected in a more diverse manner and reached the anterior head. Additionally, the axon was thin (Fig. 3B).

In 28 hours after the development, the peripheral axon of the wild-type Rohon-Beard neuron was elongated approximately toward the ventral and caudal directions all over the body (Fig. 3C). In the mutant, alternatively, the axon was actively branched and elongated toward various directions (Fig. 3D). In 20 hours after the development, the muscle fiber under way of formation in the wild type was partially striped in pattern. The muscle fiber in the mutant was never striped. No change was observed in the *edw* mutant in 36 hours; however, in the wild type, the skeletal muscle formed a sharp striped structure by that time.

Still additionally, the inventors have found in 28 hours after the

development that the posterior primary motor neuron (CaP) of the mutant was abnormal. In the wild type, the CaP axons were elongated to the ventral myotome (Fig. 3E), while in the *edw* mutant, the elongation of almost all of the CaP axons of the anterior 15 myotomes stopped intermediately in the myotomes (Fig. 3F).

Fig. 3 depicts the trifacial node sensory neurons (A and B), Rohon-Beard sensory neurons (C and D) and posterior primary motor neurons (E and F) in the embryos of wild types (A, C and E) and *edw* (B, D and F), 28 hours after the development, in color photographs of the side views of the left head tops. The arrow heads in Fig. 3 represent the activated sensory axons (B and D) and the degenerated motor axon (F) in the *edw* embryo. The scale bars in Fig. 3 correspond 100 μm (A and E) or 50 μm (C).

In all the *edw* mutants analyzed, all these characters herein referred to were observed with reproducibility. These results indicate that the *edw* mutation affects not only the projection of trifacial node and Rohon-Beard sensory neurons but also the formation of body wall muscle fiber.

Alternatively, the degeneracy of the CaP axon is possibly ascribed to the abnormality of body wall muscle. Up to now, several types of mutants (*fub*, *fro*, *slo*) without any motility or formation of muscular striped structure have been reported [Gaiano, N., Amsterdam, A., Kawakami, K., Allende, M., Becker, T. and Hopkins, N. (1996) Insertional mutagenesis and rapid cloning of essential genes in zebrafish. Nature (London) 383, 829-832, Sladek, F. M., Melian, A. and Howard-Flanders, P. (1989) Incision by UvrABC excinuclease is a step in the path to mutagenesis by psoralen crosslinks in Escherichia coli. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 86, 3982-3986.]. No report has yet been published about the abnormality in

sensory neuron.

The inventors have developed a methodology of highly efficient mutagenesis method of zebrafish as one of vertebrate animals, using the DNA crosslinking reagent psoralen derivative. The mutation frequency of a specific gene locus and the high efficiency of the mutagenesis method with the psoralen derivative as shown in the pilot screening possibly enable the isolation of a great number of zebrafish mutants even at a small scale.

The concentration of the psoralen derivative of 30 ng/ml, is probably too high. The reason is that the majority of the F1 embryos at the TMP experiments were abnormal because of the presence of possible dominant lethal mutation therein. Actually, even the psoralen derivative at a concentration of 3 ng/ml could efficiently be used for mutant isolation.

The concentration of the psoralen derivative, preferably TMP for use in the method of the invention is 0.01 to 300 ng/ml, preferably 0.1 to 100 ng/ml, more preferably 0.1 to 50 ng/ml, and still more preferably 1 to 30 ng/ml.

As to the method for prescribing the psoralen derivative in accordance with the method of the invention, the psoralen derivative is used for the treatment of sperm as described above but is also dosed by other methods.

The method of the invention comprises treating a test subject with the psoralen derivative and subsequently irradiating high-energy beams such as ultraviolet light, X ray and γ ray on the test subject. One of these high-energy beams can appropriately be selected, depending on the type of the test subject, and the type and quantity of the psoralen derivative for use in such treatment.

The vertebrate animal in accordance with the invention includes vertebrate animals excluding humans, for example fish and mammals.

The most significant characteristic aspect of the mutagenesis method of the invention is method resides in the characteristic action of the psoralen derivative, particularly TMP. The activation of TMP and the like under ultraviolet irradiation induces the emergence of a covalent bond with a pyrimidine base in a DNA double helix structure, to form crosslinks in the DNA [Driever, W., Solnica-Krezel, L., Shier, A. F., Neuhauss, S. C. F., Malicki, J., Stemple, D. L., Stainier, D. Y. R., Zwartkruis, F., Abdelilah, S., Rangini, Z., Belak, J. and Boggs, C. (1996) A genetic screen for mutations affecting embryogenesis in zebrafish. Development 123, 37-46.]. It is known in *Escherichia coli* and *Caenorhabditis elegans* that the excision of a base in a crosslinked interstrand site of the DNA double strand and the recombinational repair often cause a small deletion in the genome DNA [Chitnis, A. B. and Kuwada, J. Y. (1990) Axonogenesis in the brain of zebrafish embryos. J. Neurosci. 10, 1892-1905, Furutani-Seiki, M., Jiang, Y.-J., Brand, M., Heisenberg, C.-P., Houart, C., Beuchle, D., van Eeden, F. J. M., Granato, M., Haffter, P., Hammerschmidt, M., Kane, D. A., Kelsh, R. N., Mullins, M. C., Odenthal, J. and Nuesslein-Volhard, C., (1996) Neural degeneration mutants in the zebrafish, *Danio rerio*. Development 123, 229-239.]. Such deletion serves as an indicator essential for the cloning of mutated genes on application of a suitable method.

We have actually carried out RDA (Representational Difference Analysis) [Cimino, G. D., Gamper, H. B., Isaacs, S. T. and Hearst, J. E. (1985) Psoralens as photoactive probes of nucleic acid structure and function: organic chemistry, photochemistry, and biochemistry. Annu. Rev. Biochem. 54, 1151-1193.] between sibling mutants and normal zebrafish individuals, so that the DNA fragment deleted in the genome of the *edw* mutant could be cloned.

Thus, the mutagenesis method of the invention works as a valuable approach, other than the ENU mutagenesis method [Russell, W. L., Kelly, E. M., Hunsicker, P. R., Bangham, J. W., Maddux, S. C., and Phipps, E. L. (1979) Specific-locus test shows ethylnitrosourea to be the most potent mutagen in the mouse. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 76, 5818-5819, Wilson, S. W., Ross, L. S., Parrett, T. and Easter, S. S. Jr. (1990) The development of a simple scaffold of axon tracts in the brain of the embryonic zebrafish, *Brachydanio rerio*. Development 108, 121-145.] and the insertional mutagenesis method [Mullins, M. C., Hammerschmidt, M., Haffter, P. and Nuesslein-Volhard, C. (1994) Large-scale mutagenesis in the zebrafish: in search of genes controlling development in a vertebrate. Curr. Biol. 4, 189-202].

Examples

The present invention will now be described in detail by referring to examples, but the invention is not limited to these specific examples.

Example 1

Zebrafish males of the AB strain were anesthetized with 0.03 % (W/V) 3-aminobenzoate ethyl ester and then inserted at their spine positions between the slits of a sponge block. Sperm was aspirated from the 3 to 5 males with a 20- μ l capillary tube, which was then suspended in 100 μ l of Hank's sodium chloride solution containing 3 ng/ml to 300 ng/ml TMP and 1 % dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO).

After the resulting suspension was left to stand on ice for 5 minutes, 10- μ l portions of the suspension were dropwise added to and arranged on a 2-mm thick plastic petri dish; the petri dish was then placed on the ultraviolet irradiator of a

DNA crosslinking apparatus (TFL-20M, manufactured by Vilber Lourmat Co., Ltd., France), through the bottom of the petri dish, sperm was irradiated with ultraviolet light under conditions of 312-nm wavelength and 0.02 J/cm².

The mutagenized sperm was artificially fertilized with a fresh normal egg squeezed out of the abdomen of AB-strain females under anesthesia, while the abdomen was gently pressed, according to a routine method (day 0). The fertilized egg was placed at 28 °C in darkness for 12 hours, so as to grow an F1 individual according to a routine method.

Among the embryos treated with 30 ng/ml TMP, only 57 % (371 out of 650) could survive until day 9; among the embryos treated with 300 ng/ml TMP, only 9.5 % (49 out of 515) could survive until day 9.

Among the embryos treated with 30 ng/ml TMP, 70 % or more (122 out of 170) exerted various abnormalities until day 2 postfertilization.

Comparative Example 1

The same treatment as in Example 1 was carried out under the same conditions, except for no addition of TMP. Consequently, almost all of the embryos were grown into the adult fish (580 out of 594).

Alternatively, the number of abnormal individuals under conditions without both or either one of TMP and ultraviolet light was very small (2 % or less).

Example 2

Using zebrafish in a dotted pattern, experiments of tester mutation were carried out with the same treatment as in Example 1.

Male sperm of the AB strain was treated with TMP at 30 ng/ml and 300

ng/ml, respectively, which was then artificially fertilized with the egg of a tester-strain female. Thirty days later, 6 out of 1181 F1 individuals derived from the 30 ng/ml TMP treatment and 3 out of 130 F1 individuals derived from the 300 ng/ml TMP treatment exerted pigment mutation in dotted pattern.

Additionally, no individual with pigment mutation was observed among 866 F1 individuals treated only with ultraviolet irradiation. Consequently, the mutation frequencies of 30 ng/ml TMP and 300 ng/ml TMP were calculated as 0.5 % and 2 %, respectively, which demonstrates that the TMP mutagenesis method is extremely efficient in zebrafish.

During a term from day 1 to day 5 postfertilization, screening (F2 screen) was performed on the basis of the morphology of F3 embryo under observation with a stereomicroscope and the response to contact stimulus. Then, mutants of 10 strains were isolated mainly from 26 F1 individuals derived from the sperm treated with 30 ng/ml TMP.

Furthermore, 2 strains were also isolated from the screen of the haploids generated in a parthenogenesis manner via the activation of the F1 egg with functionally impotent sperm. The resulting mutant strains are as follows: growth degeneracy (4 strains), small head and small eyes (3 strains), no motility (2 strains), edema accompanied by ventricular enlargement (1 strain), short length (1 strain) and tectal necrosis (1 strain). All mutants were recessive and lethal in the genetic mode according to the Mendel's Law.

In order to verify the sufficient functionality of the TMP mutagenesis method, the inventors analyzed 2 mutant strains with abnormalities in the nerve system in more detail. The results of *ntn* mutant are shown in the color photographs of Fig. 2.

As another mutant, an *edawakare* mutant (*edw*) with small head and no body motility was found. Abnormalities in the sensory neuron and muscle were first found in the mutant, which corresponds to the characteristic property that the mutant never responded to gentle contact to its cauda around 24 hours later. The color photographs of Fig. 3 show the peripheral axons of the trifacial node and Rohon-Beard sensory neurons and the CaP axons in wild type and the *edw* mutant with abnormalities observed in their extension.

Industrial applicability

The invention provides a highly efficient preparation system of a mutant of vertebrate animals, particularly zebrafish; the invention also provides a method characterized in that a mutated gene can be cloned by using a deleted part as a marker on comparison with the normal chromosome because a small deletion is induced in the chromosome and that a great number of mutants with a cloning possibility can be prepared even at a small scale.

CLAIMS

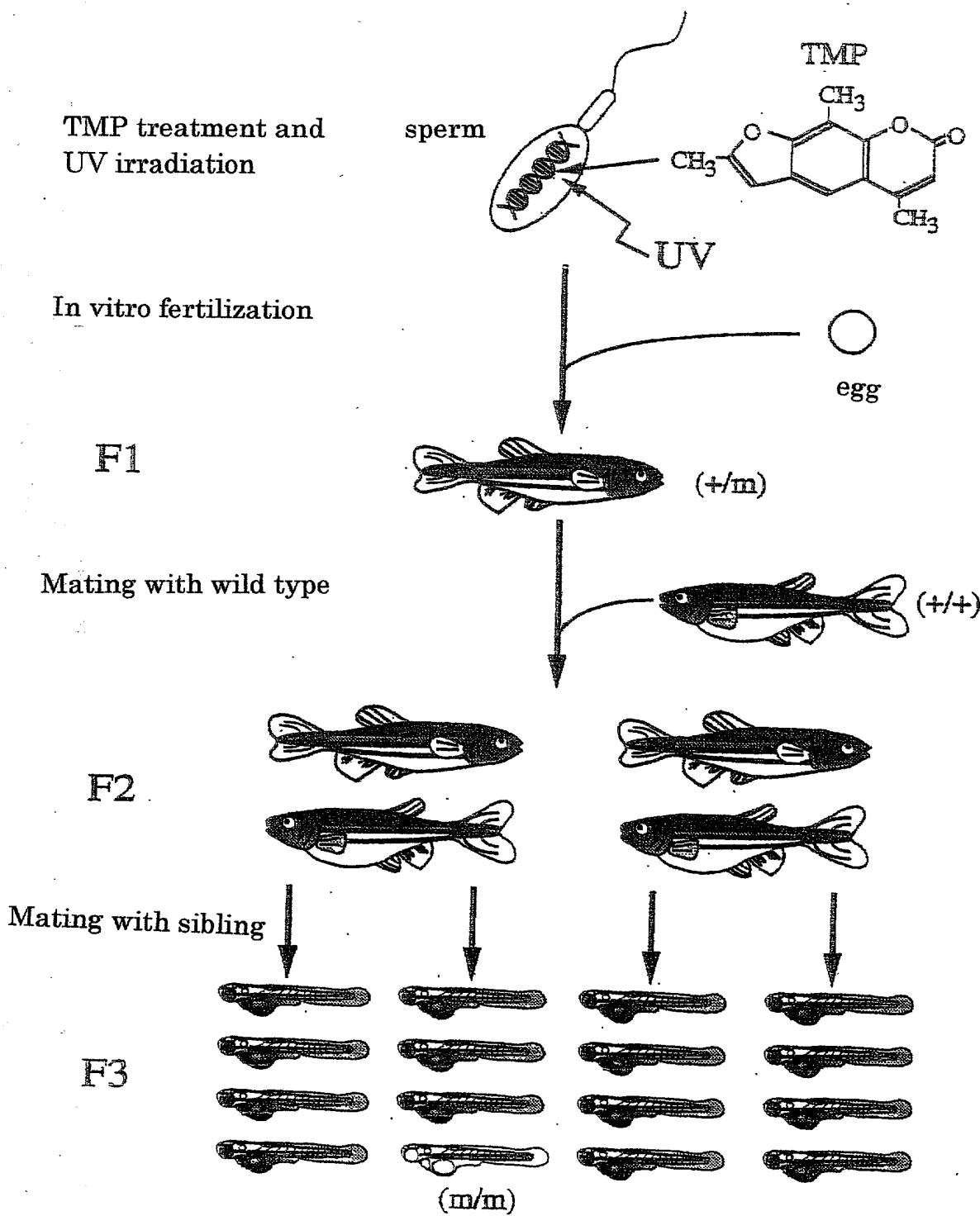
1. A mutagenesis method of a gene of a vertebrate animal, by using a psoralen derivative.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the psoralen derivative is trimethylpsoralen.
3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the vertebrate animal is zebrafish.
4. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the gene is a germ cell gene.
5. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the mutated region is a region containing a pyrimidine base.
6. A method for preparing the gene mutated by the method according to any one of claims 1 to 5.
7. A method for analyzing the function of a gene of a vertebrate animal, comprising inducing mutagenesis in a gene region containing a pyrimidine base by using a psoralen derivative and expressing the mutated gene and examining the correlation thereof.

ABSTRACT

A method for mutating genes of vertebrates, preferably zebrafish, by using psoralen derivatives, preferably trimethylpsoralen; and a method for preparing genes mutated by the above method. A method for analyzing functions of a vertebrate gene which comprises mutating a pyrimidine base-containing part of the gene by using a psoralen derivative, expressing the mutated gene and examining the correlation thereof.

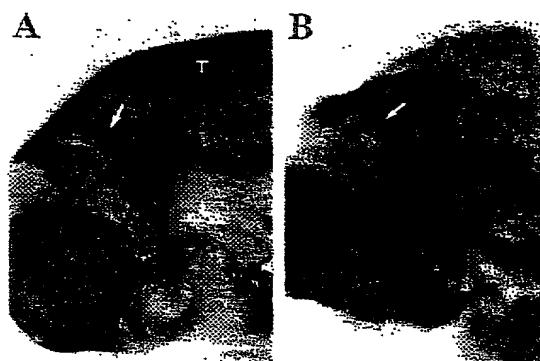
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Figure 1



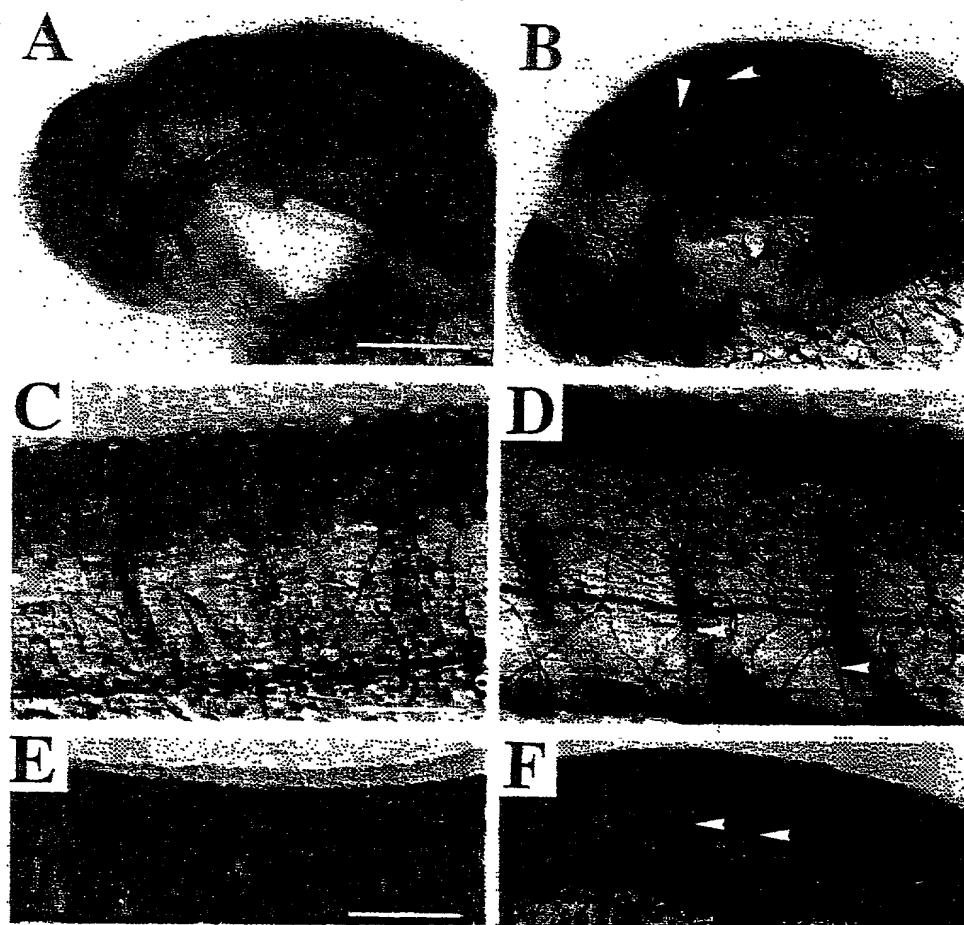
09/786309

Figure 2



09/786309

Figure 3



09/786309 - DECODED

Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application English Language Declaration

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

HIGHLY EFFICIENT MUTAGENESIS METHOD WITH THE USE OF PSORALEN DERIVATIVES

the specification of which

(check one)

- corresponds to and claims priority of Japanese Patent Application No. 10-249392/1998, filed on September 3, 1998 and PCT/JP99/01227, filed March 12, 1999.
- was filed on _____ as United States Application No. or PCT Application No. _____
and was amended on _____
(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d) or Section 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or Section 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority Not Claimed

10-249392/1998 (Number)	Japan (Country)	03 September 1998 (Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 (Number)	 (Country)	 (Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/>
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(Filing Date)

(Application Serial No)

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(Filing Date)

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PCT/JP99/01227

(Application Serial No.)

March 12, 1999

(Filing Date)

Pending

(Status)

(patented, pending, abandoned)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)

(patented, pending, abandoned)

(Application Serial No)

(Filing Date)

(Status)

(patented, pending, abandoned)

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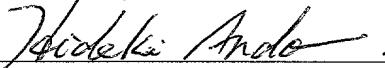
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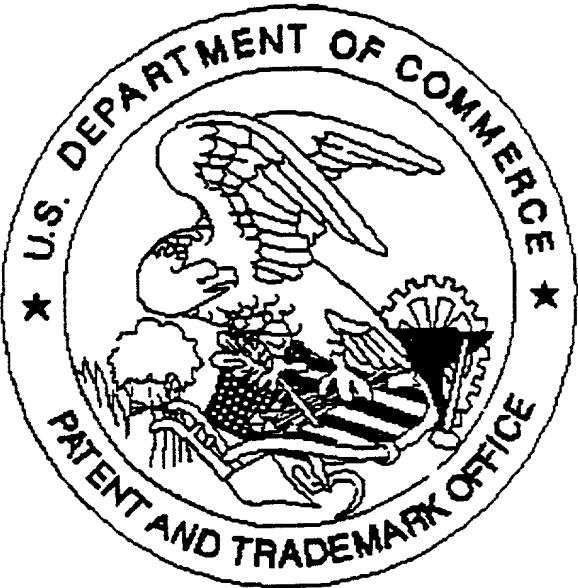
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